

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin McHenery on October 20, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-7, 9-21, 26 and 29: (cancelled)

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art (Werner, cited in previous office actions) teaches a method of soldering where an aluminum workpiece is provided, an oxide and/or hydroxide coating on the aluminum is subjected to an atmosphere which increases the thickness of the oxide and/or hydroxide, and then a chemical cleaning process is used to create inhomogeneities in the oxide and/or hydroxide to allow the workpiece to be soldered to another workpiece (column 2). However, the prior art as a whole fails to teach or render obvious the claimed method as a whole. Specifically, independent claim 22 defines over the prior art as a whole in requiring that a solder plating is applied to the workpiece, wherein the solder plating has an oxide layer, and then increasing the thickness of the oxide layer of the solder plating and soldering the workpiece to another workpiece. The prior art

teaches away from having an oxide and/or hydroxide layer in solder plating because oxides remaining in soldered joints generally weaken the soldered joints.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas P. D'Aniello whose telephone number is (571)270-3635. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Ward can be reached on (571) 272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. P. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1735

/Jessica L. Ward/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1735

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